

Located in the historic Little Tokyo district of Downtown Los Angeles in the 34th Congressional District, I had the privilege of nominating the Japanese American National Museum for an especially prestigious honor. The Institute of Museums and Library Services bestowed upon the museum its National Medal in recognition of the museum's "extraordinary civic, educational, economic, environmental, and social contributions." The museum was one of only 10 institutions in 2010 to receive the institute's National Medal—America's highest honor for museums. The Japanese American National Museum is only the second museum located in California to be recognized with this national distinction.

The concept for the museum originated more than 25 years ago when members of the Japanese American community realized that their families' storied history was being lost to time. The families especially wanted to preserve for future generations the stories of the tremendous hardships endured by Japanese Americans during World War II. During this time, thousands of Japanese American families lost their homes, their businesses and most of what they owned when the United States Government unconsciously incarcerated them in detention camps.

Despite this injustice, many Japanese Americans responded to the military needs of our country during World War II with great patriotic fervor. The famed 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team—made up almost entirely of Japanese Americans—became the most decorated units for their size and length of service in the history of our Armed Forces. In addition, Japanese Americans who became members of the United States Military Intelligence Service during World War II saved thousands of American lives by using their Japanese-language skills to serve our country as translators, interrogators and code breakers in the Pacific Theatre.

In 1985, the museum was founded as an almost all-volunteer organization composed of 13 different committees and only one full-time staff member with no permanent site and no endowment. In 1992, the museum renovated an important historic building for their headquarters and then expanded to a modern Pavilion in 1999. Throughout this time, the Japanese American National Museum became the repository of the history of people of Japanese ancestry in the United States, collecting more than 80,000 artifacts, photographs, documents and ephemera (such as letters, posters, and newspaper articles) that help to preserve and share their stories with all Americans.

An average of 25,000 students annually make visits to the Japanese American National Museum, guided by volunteers who lived through much of this amazing history. Visitors to the museum learn about the commonalities of the Japanese American experience with that of other ethnic groups in our country as part of the museum's core exhibition entitled, "Common Ground: The Heart of Community."

The museum's new exhibition entitled, "Fighting for Democracy: Who is the 'We' in 'We, the People'?" features profiles of seven people of various backgrounds and ethnicities who actively supported the American war effort, but who also wanted our democracy to truly serve all the people in the post-World War II era. This exhibition has traveled to the National World War II Museum in New Orleans,

the National Archives and the Tuskegee National Institute Historic Site in Alabama.

The museum also organized a five-state educational project entitled, "Enduring Communities: The Japanese American Experience in Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Texas, and Utah." The 3-year project—which involved local institutions within each state—culminated with a national conference in Denver in 2008 attended by teachers, scholars and the people from the communities who lived this history.

Mr. Speaker, in recognition of the museum's 25th Anniversary and its receipt of the Institute of Museums and Library Services' National Medal, I ask my congressional colleagues to please join me and the residents of the 34th Congressional District in congratulating the Japanese American National Museum for its extraordinary achievements. I congratulate Museum President and CEO Akemi Kikumura Yano, the members of the museum's Board of Governors and Board of Trustees and all of the community members whose dedication to preserving the Japanese American story make the museum the local and national treasure that it is today. I wish the museum and everyone involved in its growth and educational mission many more years of continued success.

GOLDMAN SACHS: MAXIMUM
PROFIT, MINIMUM CONTRITION

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 20, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, Goldman Sachs, the most profitable U.S. securities firm in history, is on a well-publicized public relations (PR) campaign to improve its image.

Goldman is hoping that this will help erase the negative appearance that lingers in the public's mind after it paid \$550 million to settle a Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) fraud suit last July. Since then, its stock has taken a beating.

But don't worry about Goldman. It's no secret that its strategy to reap billions in profits came in part by creating and selling high-risk mortgages in a form known as "collateralized debt obligations." This, while tens of thousands of families in Cleveland—and millions elsewhere—were losing their homes to foreclosure and their communities to decay and neglect. It's also well-known that Goldman had no ethical problem placing big bets against its own investment clients.

In 2008, Goldman took \$10 billion in below-market loans from the Federal Reserve, only to have the audacity to claim later that it didn't need that money after all. But those funds helped Goldman weather the financial crisis that they helped create. It's easy to claim now that they didn't need the help back when the financial system was nearly in ruins. But don't be fooled: it's still the same old Goldman, still as cunning and ruthless as ever when it comes to the pursuit of profits.

Goldman hopes its PR money will be well-spent, and that the American people will forget the way it profited so handsomely, even off of the misery of others, including its own clients.

But many of us are paying attention, and we will remember.

TRIBUTE TO SARALAND MAYOR
KEN WILLIAMS

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 20, 2011

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of Saraland Mayor Ken Williams, a beloved and dedicated public servant to many in his community, who suddenly passed away on December 27, 2010 the age of 76.

Mayor Williams began his long and successful political career as city councilman in 1992 and served until 1996 when he ran for mayor of Saraland.

He was Saraland's longest serving mayor, in office for 14 years, and was widely respected for his steadfast dedication to preserving Saraland's small town quality of life, while helping his community become one of the fastest growing towns in South Alabama.

A native of Putnam, Alabama, Mayor Williams was a local businessman and resident before entering politics. He was a retired master plumber and owned a local sporting goods business for many years. Mayor Williams is credited with a number of significant enhancements for his community, most notably the establishment of Saraland's own school system. He also supported local job recruitment and the construction of Saraland's first baseball fields.

On behalf of the people of South Alabama, I offer my condolences to his wife of 50 years, Margaret; their son, Thomas Michael; brother, Patrick; grandchildren, Ashley Elmore, Brandi Williams, Joshua Williams; one great grandchild, Tyler Elmore; and extended family. You are all in our prayers.

REPEALING THE JOB-KILLING
HEALTH CARE LAW ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 19, 2011

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, the Democrat health care law contains a number of provisions that will cripple our economy and stifle job creation. With the unemployment rate above 9 percent, the last thing we should do is implement policies that will hinder the ability of employers to expand their businesses and create jobs. Unfortunately, ObamaCare does just that by punishing employers who do not or cannot provide government-approved health insurance to employees.

Businesses of every size are already struggling with the strain of rising health care costs. By imposing higher costs on employers, this onerous mandate will lead to lower wages and fewer workers. In fact, a study by the National Federation of Independent Business estimates the employer mandate will destroy 1.6 million jobs with more than half of those job losses coming from small businesses—the nation's primary source for new jobs.

To get our economy back on track, it is vital that we repeal ObamaCare immediately, and enact commonsense policies that will lower health costs for families and small businesses and protect jobs.